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## Strength of the Viet Minh Army, 1951-1952

	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>
Regular army	15,600	50,000
Regional troops	10,000	16,000
People's militia	5,000	12,000

## Comparative Fire Power of French and Viet Minh Forces

	<u>French Army</u> (per regiment)	<u>Viet Minh Army</u> (per regiment)
Automatic rifles	30	60
Light machine guns	133	200
Carbines	624	300
Artillery mortars	[No information given]	
Machine guns	[No information given]	
Men	884	6,000

On the basis of the foregoing data, and considering the respective problems of both sides, the paper noted no preponderance of power on either side at present. The paper called transportation the chief difficulty of the Viet Minh, and fighting in isolated hill areas a major hardship for the French. "Whether the present stalemate will shift to give one side advantage over the other," ventured the newspaper, "depends on the one hand, upon whether Communist China will risk joining the war, and on the other, upon future French and, particularly, US moves."

Movement of Troops from China to Viet Minh

According to the Kuang-hua Jih-pao of 4 November, information received in T'ai-pei reveals that 27,000 Soviet-equipped Viet Minh troops have completed their training in Nanning, Kwangsi, and are now returning to the Viet Minh front.

Viet Minh troops under the command of Chang Ch'i-sheng (張棋生) [Truong Ky Sinh] have arrived in Viet Minh territory and are preparing to proceed to the battle front, according to the newspaper. The paper added that Viet Minh troops are getting a continuous supply of Soviet arms and ammunition via Nanning.

China-Indochina Border Area

The independent Rangoon Chung-kuo Jih-pao of 26 November 1952 cited a Pan Asia news report that Peiping had recently deployed two divisions to Kwangtung to strengthen Communist forces in that area. According to the source, the mission of these two divisions, presently stationed at Kuang-pu, is not to threaten Hong Kong, but to protect Viet Minh supply lines from anti-Communist guerrilla attacks.

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